



The Panhandle

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Best Places to Eat

- » Ball Room Restaurant (p448)
- » Indian Pass Raw Bar (p437)
- » Dewey Destin's (p431)
- » Joe Patti's (p427)

Best Places to Stay

- » Wakulla Springs Lodge (p447)
- » Island Hotel (p451)
- » Coombs House Inn (p438)
- » Hotel DeFuniak (p441)
- » Hibiscus Coffee & Guesthouse (p433)
- » Aunt Martha's Bed & Breakfast (p431)

Why Go?

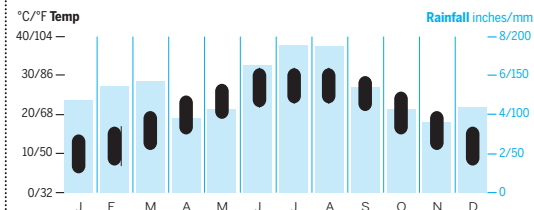
Take all the things that are great about the Deep South – friendly people, the molasses-slow pace, oak-lined country roads, fried food galore – and add several hundred miles of sugar-white beaches, dozens of gin-clear natural springs, and all the fresh oysters you can suck down, and there you have it: the fantastic, highly underrated Florida Panhandle.

Kick up your heels on the Gulf Coast, whose luscious aqua waters will make you think you've landed in the Caribbean, gallery-hop in the urban centers of Pensacola or Tallahassee, fish the primeval river of Steinhatchee, hike the moss-shrouded trails of wildernesses like the Apalachicola National Forest, or, hey, suck down a few Jell-O shots with the Spring Breakers in Panama City Beach (we won't judge!).

Lovers of the offbeat will appreciate the Panhandle's quirky charms – billboards announcing the End of Times, roadside stands hawking alligator jerky, adorably retro mid-century motels. Consider it road trip heaven.

When to Go

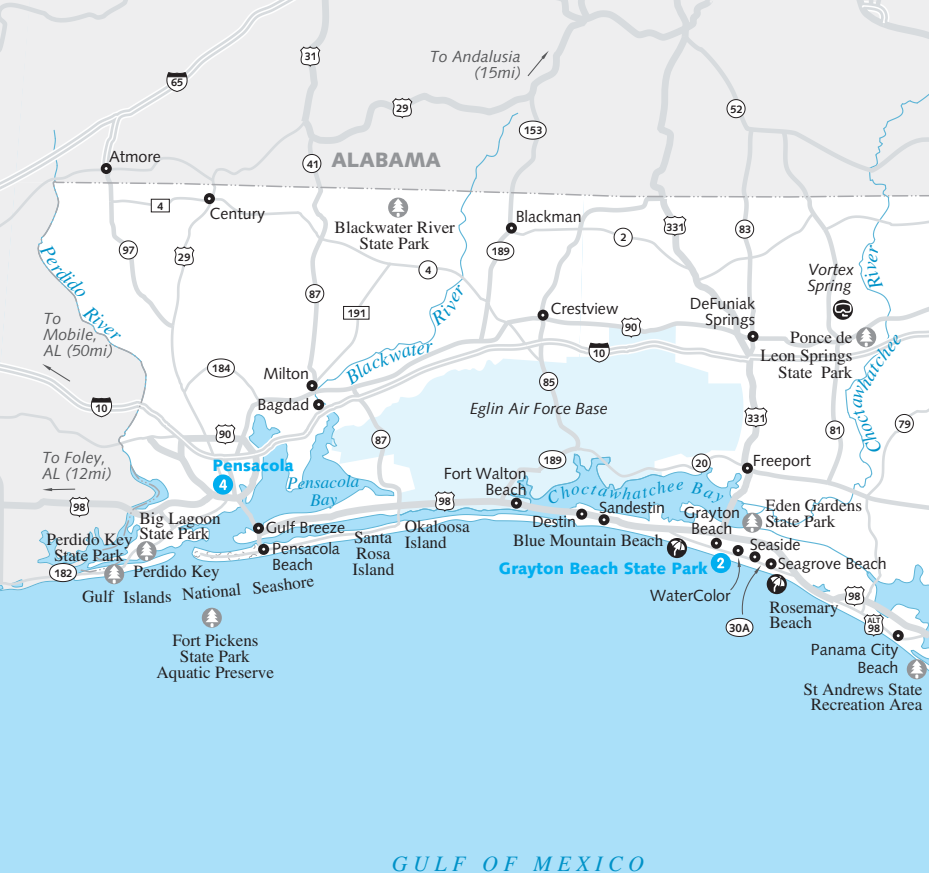
Pensacola



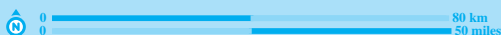
Mar & Apr Spring Breakers descend upon Pensacola and Panama City for weeks of frenzied partying.

May-Sep The weather is steamy and the beaches crowded with vacationing families.

Nov-Feb Chilly winter temps mean you'll have the region all to yourself.



GULF OF MEXICO



Panhandle Highlights

1 Slurp down oysters at the venerable **Indian Pass Raw Bar** (p437), then stay for some line dancing on the porch

2 Wander the windswept dunes and luminous gulf waters

of **Grayton Beach State Park** (p433), which has the region's most picturesque beach

3 Get a wildlife thrill on a guided river cruise at **Wakulla Springs State Park** (p447),

where mossy cypress trees and mangroves mingle with manatees, alligators and a slew of wading birds

4 Marvel at the **Blue Angels** (p421), the US Navy's flight